

Abstract

In the case of an electrically drivable light modulator having liquid crystal layers, which are disposed one behind the other and are enclosed between transparent plates having a surface anisotropy that orients the molecules of the liquid crystals and having electrodes for generating an electric field in the liquid crystals, at least two layers of helical, smectic, ferroelectric liquid crystals are situated one behind the other in the path of rays of a light beam to be modulated. The directions of the fast and slow axes, respectively, of the individual layers are rotated relatively to each other in such a way that the polarization of the light beam is the same upstream and downstream from the modulator. An adaptive, optical device is indicated, which has a field of light modulators configured in a raster-type array. The modulators are situated in the path of rays of the device, each individual light modulator being able to be driven to compensate for unsharpness occurring on a point-by-point basis, of an image to be processed.